

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date  
15 March 2001 (15.03.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 01/17515 A1**(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **A61K 31/00**,  
C08G 283/04, 63/44, 69/10, 69/48, 73/10, C08L 77/04,  
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(22) International Filing Date:

1 September 2000 (01.09.2000)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

99307041.6

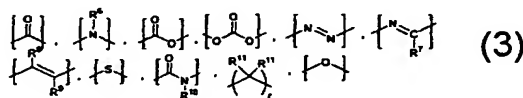
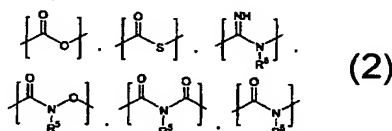
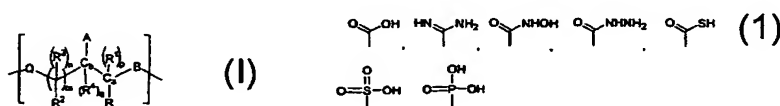
3 September 1999 (03.09.1999) **EP**(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **SCHOOL**  
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(GB).(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,  
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE,  
DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU,  
ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS,  
LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ,  
PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT,  
TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,  
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian  
patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European  
patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE,  
IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG,  
CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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— With international search report.

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **DEGRADABLE POLYMERS**

(57) Abstract: A polymer comprising: a polymeric backbone comprising at least one unit having the structure (I), wherein R-R<sup>4</sup> comprise groups selected from the group consisting of H, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> aralkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> cycloalkyl or any of the group consisting of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> aralkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> cycloalkyl substituted, within the carbon chain or appended thereto, with one or more heteroatoms; R and R<sup>2</sup> or R and R<sup>4</sup> or R and R<sup>1</sup> or R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> may be joined so that with the carbon atom(s) to which they are attached they together form a saturated, partially unsaturated or unsaturated ring system respectively, may have a pendent group which may incorporate a linker unit, (for example a peptide linkage) or a unit having the structure (I); A comprises a proton donating moiety selected from the group consisting of formula (1). B comprises a hydrolytically labile group and is selected from the group consisting of formula (2), wherein each R<sup>5</sup> is individually selected from the group consisting of H, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> aralkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> cycloalkyl; wherein groups A and B are in a cis-configuration about bond C<sub>a</sub>-C<sub>b</sub>; m is an integer of 0 to 100, n, p and q are each an integer of 0 or 1; Q comprises 1 or more structures selected from the group consisting of formula (3) wherein R<sup>6</sup>-R<sup>11</sup> are individually selected from the same group as defined for group R above and r is an integer between 1 and 5000, preferably 1 to 10, most preferably 1 to 6; methods for the production, and uses thereof.